



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

experience and training in the practical working of the relations of which he treats, gives his comments and criticisms a point and suggestiveness that might have been lacking if the the book were from the pen of a trained lawyer who was without this special experience.

Architects, builders and owners will find the book interesting and valuable as giving them the legal aspect of their relations; and lawyers who have to do with the subject-matters treated of, will be thankful to find so many cases collected and clearly stated on matters not covered satisfactorily by any other treatise known to the writer.

One of the strongest evidences of practical wisdom in the writing of the book is shown by the author not attempting to give the mechanic's lien laws of the different states, which he speaks of as in "a constant state of transition," a remark, the force of which particularly appeals to a Pennsylvania lawyer.

At the end of the volume are three forms of contracts between the builder and the owner, which are worthy of being consulted by any lawyer who has a contract of this kind to draw or pass upon, especially the third form.

An alphabetical list of cases cited, and a second list giving the cases of each state alphabetically, are given. The index is reasonably full, but seems to the writer not as well executed as the rest of the book.

B. H. L.

A TREATISE ON DISPUTED HANDWRITING AND THE DETERMINATION OF GENUINE FROM FORGED SIGNATURES; THE CHARACTER AND COMPOSITION OF INKS, AND THEIR DETERMINATION BY CHEMICAL TESTS; THE EFFECT OF AGE AS MANIFESTED IN THE APPEARANCE OF WRITTEN INSTRUMENTS AND DOCUMENTS. By WILLIAM E. HAGAN, Expert in Handwriting. (All rights reserved.) Albany, N. Y.: Banks & Brothers. 1894.

This book came to our hands for review after Prof. FRAZER's work had been read, and has been read entirely through, with

the exception of some of the cases in the appendix. There are many things in this book which are valuable, but in our judgment the author places entirely too much stress upon his theory of muscular co-ordination and pen pressure as furnishing the means of identification of disputed writings. A very large portion, and, in our opinion, a very undue proportion of Mr. HAGAN's book is occupied in discussion of this theory: While this is a valuable means of investigation, it is only one of many, and in our experience not by any means the most valuable. In our opinion, Professor FRAZER has more correctly formulated the weight to be attributed to this method of investigation. On page 74 of his book, referring to this subject, he used the following language: "Within certain limitations it is an important object to study, and may give indications of value to corroborate or refute the hypotheses based upon other lines of study."

His statements in the chapter on chemical testing of inks and in his account of the Davis Will Case, are not always correct, and in this respect we do not regard the book as reliable. For instance, on page 247, the author states, referring to the test of the inks in the will in the Davis Will Case, that "the fact that it turned the ink red, and this would be the reaction it would have upon logwood ink, did not fully establish the identity of the latter, for according to the best chemical authority this same reaction would have occurred were it made from analyne [sic] black (see Allen's Commercial Organic Analysis, edition of 1889, page 130)." Referring to the authority cited, we find the following: "Logwood ink marks are mostly reddened by oxalic acid, and alizarin marks become bluish, but aniline inks are unaffected. With hydrochloric acid, logwood ink marks turn reddish or reddish-grey, alizarin marks greenish, and aniline ink marks reddish or brownish-grey." The author, however, does not seem to have studied Mr. ALLEN's work with very great care, for if he had consulted page 252, he would have found the following: "Aniline black differs remarkably from most other aniline colors, in that it is *wholly insoluble in water*, alcohol, acids, soap-lye and alkaline solutions.

Hence the application of ready-formed aniline black is very limited, and it is usually produced in the fibre itself. It yields an extremely fast and pure black on cotton, but it is not well suited for dyeing silk or wool." From this it appears that analine black, which by the way is improperly spelled by Mr. HAGAN, being insoluble in water cannot be used and is not used in making ink in which water is the only solvent used. It further appears on the same page of ALLEN that analine black is either wholly unchanged by acids or turned slightly greenish and not red.

We might criticise further his report of the Davis Will Case, for we know from personal inspection of the document that many other statements therein contained are inaccurate and untrue. We will instance only one on page 249, where he states that the signature in question was plainly a traced signature. We state from personal inspection of the document that there was not the slightest evidence of tracing in or about it. In many other cases, the author assumes things as proved upon the trial upon which there was a very great conflict of testimony, The jury disagreed. The report as a whole is altogether biased and inaccurate.

Considering the involved style in which the book is written, that undue space is devoted to a pet theory, the accuracy of the chemical part of the work, and the manifest bias of the author in the statement of cases so far as we have examined it, we do not regard the book as an entirely accurate exposition of the science which it reports to treat.

M. D. EWELL.

The Kent Law School of Chicago.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF WILLS AND ADMINISTRATION.

By ROBERT PRICHARD, of the Chattanooga Bar. Chattanooga: MacGowan & Cooke, Printers. 1894.

It is not often that one can read with interest a book avowedly devoted to the practice in the courts of one particular state, and when such a duty proves a pleasure instead of a dreary task it is a matter for congratulation. Such has proved